



**Office of the United States Attorney
District of Arizona**

PRESS RELEASE

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MAN CONVICTED OF ASSAULT ON A FEDERAL OFFICER

TUCSON, Ariz. - The U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona announced that on April 28, 2005, Jesus Manuel Ochoa, 20, a U.S. citizen living in Cananea, Sonora, Mexico, was found guilty here by a federal jury. Ochoa had been charged with violating Title 18, U.S. Code, Section 111(a)(1) and (b) for Assault on a Federal Officer with a Deadly Weapon; Title 21, U.S. Code, Section 841(a)(1) and 841 (b)(1)(B)(vii) for Possession of Marijuana with Intent to Distribute and Title 18 U.S. Code, Section 1361 for Depredation Against Property. The case was tried before U.S. District Judge John M. Roll.

The evidence at trial showed that on February 17, 2004, Ochoa had 647 pounds of marijuana in his vehicle and was attempting to flee from federal agents into Mexico when he rammed his pickup truck into a vehicle driven by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agent Albert Kinsey. Ochoa then lead law enforcement officers from three different agencies on a 15 mile chase from Bisbee, Ariz. to the Mexican border. Ochoa was ultimately apprehended after he abandoned the vehicle and fled towards Mexico. After his apprehension, agents discovered the marijuana in his vehicle. Ochoa admitted he was transporting the marijuana to a location in Tucson. The jury could not reach a verdict on four other counts, including two counts of Assault on a Federal Officer and two counts of Depredation Against Property, stemming from events that occurred on February 11, 2004 in Sierra Vista when federal agents were involved in a pursuit similar to that of which Ochoa was convicted. The individual involved in that pursuit with federal agents on February 11, 2004 fled into Mexico.

A conviction for Possession of Marijuana with Intent to Distribute carries a maximum penalty of 40 years in prison, a \$2,000,000 fine or both. A conviction for Assault on a Federal Officer carries a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison, a \$250,00 fine or both. Depredation Against Property of the U.S. carries a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison, a \$250,000 fine or both. Sentencing is set before Judge John M. Roll on July 29, 2005.

The investigation leading to the guilty verdict was conducted by ICE agents from Douglas, Ariz. The prosecution was handled by Beverly K. Anderson, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Tucson, Ariz.

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RELEASE NUMBER: 2005-092

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